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Nevada Wildlife Federation, Inc.

An Affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation

Post Office Box 71238
Reno, Nevada 89570

March 12, 2000

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WALLA WALLA DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
ATTN LOWER SNAKE RIVER STUDY
201 NORTH THIRD AVE
WALLA WALLA WA 99362-2876

Dear BG Carl Strock

I am writing in behalf of the Nevada Wildlife Federation regarding the Lower Snake River Study.

Nevada has three rivers that are tributaries to the Snake River, the Owyhee, the Bruneau and the Jarbidge Rivers. These rivers historically had runs of salmon to the headwaters in Nevada. However, through the neglect and abuse by our human population Nevada no longer has salmon returning from the Snake and Columbia River system. Someday this might still be possible.

The first step in visualizing the return of salmon to Nevada is the breaching of the lower Snake River dams. Dam removal must be the centerpiece of any option chosen to recover Snake River salmon and steelhead in the Snake River system. Scientists have spoken and indicate that the best option to recover all species of salmon and steelhead on the Snake River is to remove these four dams.

We urge the Corps to make the right decision by breaching these dams as soon as possible. A delay could mean further species extinction on the Snake River.

Saving fish in the Pacific Northwest is personally important to me. Many years ago I improved my ability to catch steelhead in a Pacific NW river by watching a lone fisherman catch two steelhead in the same hole that I was fishing. The next day I returned to that same fishing spot with my father. I landed three steelhead that early morning while my dad stood in amazement since he got "skunked". I continue to fish these

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rivers but I don't have any new success stories to tell about in recent years.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gale Dupree".

Gale Dupree

NWF Representative

cc: National Marine Fisheries Service
National Wildlife Federation